

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve

A281.8

#1

cop. 1

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ OCT 26 1954
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DELAWARE ASC

FARM NEWS

No. 1

January 5, 1954

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Delaware ASC Office extends New Year Greetings and Best Wishes to all interested in better agriculture. Many challenging events will face us in 1954, but let us vow to meet them with courage and fairness to all.

The fundamental purpose of the Agricultural Conservation Program, as stated by Secretary Benson, is to provide a means by which the public can share with land owners and operators the cost of carrying out needed conservation work over and above that which they would do with only their own resources. It is our sincere hope that the Agricultural Conservation Program will be carried out in such a manner that it will make a marked contribution toward attainment of conservation objectives.

We will need to combine the efforts of research, education, technical assistance, cost-sharing, and credit as well as full cooperation of all branches of agricultural service, including farmers themselves, to attain the fullest results.

We pledge to you all our most sincere efforts.

NEW STATE COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the new State Committee (except for a brief organizational meeting on December 22) will be held on January 7 at the State ASC Office. It is expected that regular dates for subsequent meetings will be set up at that time.

Members of the State Committee whose appointments were effective December 21, 1953, are: Paul W. Mitchell, Chairman, Hockessin; George C. Simpson, Houston; and Alden P. Short, Georgetown.

1954 ACP RE-OPENED IN ALL COUNTIES

The final date on which farmers may apply for Federal cost-sharing on practices carried out under the Agricultural Conservation Program during the first five months of 1954 has been extended to January 22, 1954, in all Delaware counties.

This action was the result of a lighter enrollment than had been expected by December 10, 1953. Requests that were filed by December 10, have been reviewed by county committees, and their office staffs are now engaged in preparing notices of approval to be issued to farmers. Several practices require an on-site determination as to need and practicability by SCS or the State Forestry Department before final approval can be given. Also, final approval cannot be given for the use of liming materials until the need for lime has been established by a soil test. Therefore, many of the notices which farmers will be receiving will be tentative approvals pending the determination that the practice is needed and practical on the farm, or, in the case of lime, the receipt of the soil sample.

It is believed that misunderstanding of the 1954 ACP resulted in the light enrollment by December 10. This misunderstanding appears most widespread in connection with the use of lime, and many farmers who need it are not planning on using lime in 1954 simply because they are under the impression that it is not an eligible practice in 1954.

Actually the specifications for the use of lime are such that most Delaware farmers who need lime can qualify for using it. The lime must be applied to established pasture or hay crops, or to land which will be devoted to such crops in 1955 or seeded to crimson clover or vetch this fall. A soil test is required to determine whether lime is needed on the field to which it will be applied.

Interested farmers should be urged to discuss their conservation problems with the county agent, the SCS technician or the ASC county office manager before January 22.

LEGISLATION NO GUARANTEE OF FARM INCOME, SAYS BENSON

Farm programs alone cannot guarantee farm income, according to Secretary Benson in a recent address. "As I think back over the years," he said, "I believe we have been led to expect too much of government. I think we have been led by a blind faith that government can do more for us than we can do for ourselves."

He pointed out that last year hogs were selling for 16 cents a pound — only 77% of parity, and that despite some agitation for hog supports then, none were put into effect. As a result, he said, farmers bred 12% fewer sows for spring farrow this year — 5% fewer sows for fall farrow; and hog prices bounced back quickly.

He said, "Your future prosperity, I believe, is going to depend largely on two things: First, how good a job you can do on your own farm. Second, I believe your farm income will be high only if the Nation as a whole is prosperous."

"Agricultural economists assure me that this fact has been true for the last 150 years — that changes in the general price level are the most important factor affecting the profits from farming. That, in general, periods of rising prices have been periods of prosperity, and periods of falling prices have been periods of agricultural distress."

"Therefore, I say to you that the farmer's prosperity is much more bound up with the government's fiscal program than it is with any farm program we write."

He said, however, that even if desirable, we can't change our present farm programs too abruptly. "It must be a gradual adjustment," he stated. "It's the direction we go from here that is most important."

Secretary Benson said that production is only half the job; that we must market our products. He pledged the use of every recourse in cooperation with industry to find new markets for farm products and to recapture, insofar as possible, overseas markets we have lost.

"The basic and typically American idea behind any farm program must be to help farmers help themselves. Your Department of Agriculture will always fight the farmers' battle but it must be the servant — not the master of the American farmer."

DEADLINE FOR 1953 CROP LOANS

Farmers should be reminded that the final date for filing an application for a CCC loan on 1953 crops is drawing near. Loans will be available through January 31, 1954, on barley, oats, rye, soybeans and wheat; for corn the final date is March 31, 1954. All the necessary loan papers must be signed by the farmer and delivered to the county committee by these dates. Therefore, applications on farm-stored commodities should be made at least 15 days before the dates shown above in order to allow sufficient time for inspection, sampling, and preparation of loan papers.

FINAL DATE FOR REPORTING 1953 ACP PRACTICES

January 15, 1954, is the final date for reporting practices completed under the 1953 ACP. Farmers should be reminded to bring invoices or sales slips covering lime, fertilizer, or seed used in performing ACP practices to the county ASC office when they come in to file this report.

1954 CORN ACREAGE ALLOTMENT

Committeemen and office employees in all counties are busily engaged in trying to secure a record of the corn acreage planted in 1953, 1952, and 1951, on each Delaware farm. There are some farms in each county for which such information has not been obtained. In some instances, farmers have refused to give the information and in other cases the committeemen have not been able to contact the farmer.

Whatever the reason, the result of not getting the information can be decidedly bad for the individual farmer if corn allotments become effective for the 1954 crop-year. Allotments can be established only for the farms for which acreage data for the last three years can be obtained.

The announcement as to whether allotments will be effective for the 1954 corn crop will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture not later than February 1, 1954. Meantime, the preliminary work necessary for the establishment of individual farm allotments must be done in order that farmers may be notified of their allotments sufficiently in advance of planting. Farmers who have not yet reported their corn acreage history to the county ASC office, or to a committeemen at their farm, should do so as soon as possible.

January 15, 1954, is the last day on which a request may be made for a "new farm" corn allotment for farms on which corn was not planted in any of the years 1951, 1952, or 1953.

January 4 - 16

is the period of intensified promotion of
BROILERS AND FRYERS

under a special plentiful foods program conducted cooperatively by producers, the food trades, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. During this period especially, we urge all editors and radio commentators to inform consumers about supplies and uses of this poultry. Your support of the program will, as usual, be much appreciated.

"Delaware Chicken from Coast to Coast" is the title of a new leaflet prepared by the Delaware State Poultry Commission, Box 150, Newark, Delaware. It contains several tasty recipes for broilers and fryers. Copies can be obtained for the asking.

FOR THE DELAWARE ASC STATE COMMITTEE

By: Paul W. Mitchell
Paul W. Mitchell
Chairman

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation
Courtney and Academy Streets
Newark, Delaware